

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 180083
ORIGIN SIG-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 H-01 SS-15 L-03 /040 R

DRAFTED BY S/IG:MDBEAN:MES
APPROVED BY S/IG:RMSAYRE
EB/IFD/OIA - RJSMITH (DRAFT)
AF/W - T. SMITH (DRAFT)
AF/W - EESVENDSEN (DRAFT)
H - D. BENNET (INFO)

-----037679 020255Z /61

P 012219Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180083

STADIS/////////
FOR THE CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, ENRG, LI

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY REGARDING ALLEGED EXPROPRI-
ATION OF THE LIBERIA REFINING COMPANY (LRC)

STADIS

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED INQUIRY FROM MEMBER OF
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP OF WHOM DYNALECTRON IS A CORPORATE
CONSTITUENT REGARDING DEPARTMENT'S ROLE IN THE ONGOING
DISPUTE BETWEEN THE GOL AND DYNALECTRON/SUN OVER THE
ALLEGED EXPROPRIATION OF LRC BY THE GOL. LETTER EXPRESSES
CONCERN ABOUT EXTENT TO WHICH DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN HELPFUL
TO DYNALECTRON. DEPARTMENT HAS RESPONDED OUTLINING NEUTRAL
INTERMEDIARY ROLE PLAYED THUS FAR BY DEPARTMENT/EMBASSY
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MONROVIA AND INDICATING INTENTION CONTINUE OFFER GOOD
OFFICES TO THE DISPUTANTS. RESPONSE ALSO INDICATES DIS-
PUTANTS STILL NEGOTIATING, THAT IT NOT CLEAR THAT EXPROPRI-
ATION HAS OCCURRED AND THAT EXPROPRIATION GROUP SEEKING
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CLARIFICATION BEFORE REACHING
FINAL JUDGMENT.

2. DEPARTMENT CONTEMPLATING INSTRUCTING EMBASSY MAKE INFORMAL APPROACH TO APPROPRIATE SENIOR GOL OFFICIAL(S) TO ADVISE GOL THAT MATTER BECOMING DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH WITH POTENTIALLY SERIOUS OVERTONES. WOULD URGE THAT GOL PROCEED EXPEDITIOUSLY TO DEVELOP EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO LRC MATTER IN ORDER AVOID ITS GETTING OUT OF HAND AND BECOMING POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS. DEPARTMENT AWARE SUCH AN APPROACH COULD BE INTERPRETED BY GOL AS A THREAT BY USG AND GOL MIGHT REACT ADVERSELY. WE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE APPROACH IN A MANNER LEAST LIKELY TO IRRITATE GOL SENSITIVITIES.

3. BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER, WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF SUGGESTED APPROACH INCLUDING YOUR ESTIMATE OF GOL REACTION AND YOUR SUGGESTION AS TO WHICH GOL OFFICIAL(S) MIGHT BEST BE APPROACHED (ONE SUGGESTION HERE HAS BEEN APPROACH TO LIBERIAN PRESIDENT). DEPARTMENT WOULD WELCOME ANY ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTION(S) YOU WISH TO MAKE ON HOW TO PROCEED. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALIZATION, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE180083
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDBEAN:MES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770275-1134
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708109/aaaadozn.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4dfc2150-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SIG
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1428035
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY REGARDING ALLEGED EXPROPRIATION OF THE LIBERIA REFINING COMPANY (LRC) STADIS
TAGS: EINV, ENRG, LI, LRC
To: MONROVIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4dfc2150-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009